

VZCZCXRO1850

RR RUEHAP RUEHKN RUEHKR RUEHNZ RUEHPB

DE RUEHWL #0003 0080355

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

R 080355Z JAN 09

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5634

INFO RUEHAP/AMEMBASSY APIA 0522

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 5365

RUEHKN/AMEMBASSY KOLONIA 0036

RUEHKR/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0026

RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0771

RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 0784

RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 1822

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000003

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

TO EEB/ESC FOR DANIELLE MONOSSON AND TO OES/EGC FOR GRIFF THOMPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [PGOV](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: NZ RESPONSE TO ACTION REQUEST CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)

REF: SECSTATE 134385

¶1. (SBU) In response to reftel action request. Poloff contacted Richard Hawke, Manager of the Energy and Environment Office for the New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development. Hawke stated that the GNZ is aware of IRENA, that there have been internal GNZ discussions concerning the proposal, and that the GNZ has decided to not take a position on the initiative at this time. Hawke acknowledged that several governments, including the USG, oppose IRENA for the reasons of duplication and overlap with existing renewable energy programs. He explained that the GNZ has not yet seen a valid case to support the program, and that the GNZ is constrained by limited resources and previous commitments (for example, the Energy Development for Island Nations initiative sponsored by the GNZ, USG and the government of Iceland). Nevertheless, according to Hawke, NZ "is not saying no, and is not closing the door."

KEEGAN